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## Waiheke Island Escape - 6 day New Zealand Tour



### Waiheke Island Escape

**Auckland shopping, gardens and museums, West coast beaches, Waiheke Island sights, wineries for tastings and dinner, plus more...**

Escape to Waiheke Island after a few days exploring Auckland City, what a contrast and just a short ferry ride apart. See the sights of Auckland, do some shopping or explore the museums. then unwind for a few days on Waiheke Island. A must visit destination for our international A list celebs, let us show you these two contrasting destinations on our Island Getaway.

19th Mar 2021

\$2295 pp

**Day 1** With bags packed, and as always, a pick up at your door, we head off for a getaway to wonderful Waiheke Island. We enjoy a very relaxed drive to Auckland, getting to know your new tour mates and making sure we have plenty of stops along the way. Through the scenic Karangahake Gorge, we traverse the Hauraki Plains before climbing the Bombay Hills and then into central Auckland.

Before checking in to our city central hotel we offer the option for some retail therapy at the new Newmarket Westfield Shopping Mall, or if you prefer time to explore the Auckland Museum in the Auckland Domain. If these options are not for you then you can check into the hotel which is just a short 5 minute walk from the Holy Trinity Cathedral. This stunning building is well worth a visit.

**Day 2** After a lovely breakfast, the following day we explore our largest city and will soak up some of the famous sights that make 'The City of Sails' one of the most livable cities in the world. We first head west to the black sand beaches at Muriwai, where at Otakamiro Point there is one of the few mainland located gannet (takapu) breeding colonies. The short walk to the viewing area is well worth the effort and depending on the time of year you may see gannet chicks on the nests. Before heading back to the city we stop for lunch at a suitable venue.

After lunch we head back into the heart of the city to visit a secret garden nestled in an inner-city suburb. With something always in bloom, this spacious oasis is home to a variety of native birds, insects and butterflies. The collection includes mature trees, flowering shrubs and perennials (including a large collection of rhododendrons). Tonight we dine at the stunning Orbit Restaurant at Sky Tower, where you can enjoy 360 degree views of the city while having a lovely meal.

**Day 3** Time for us to skip across the Hauraki Gulf to Waiheke Island – our home for the next 3 nights. The ferry ride is spectacular with scenic views of the harbour, city and surrounding islands, such as Rangitoto and Browns Island. On arrival on Waiheke we will check in to our beach-side accommodation, time perhaps for a swim in the warm waters of the gulf or a stroll along the beach before dinner at a waterfront restaurant just along the beach.

#### Whats Included:

- 6 days of touring
- 5 nights quality accommodation
- Door to door service [home pickups]
- Quality Air-conditioned vehicle
- Fully guided with commentary
- All breakfasts and dinners
- Sky Tower Orbit Restaurant dinner
- Secret Garden Sanctuary visit
- Guided tour of Waiheke Island
- Wine tasting at two leading wineries
- Muriwai Gannet colony
- Plenty of stops along the way

#### You will see:

- Stunning scenery throughout
- The City of Sails - Auckland
- Sky Tower - Casino optional!
- The Waitemata Harbour
- Waiheke and the Hauraki Gulf

#### Not included:

- Any lunches unless specified\*
- Morning/afternoon tea stops\*
- Any alcoholic beverages with meals



\* Please note, that unless specified in the itinerary we do not usually include the cost of lunches or morning and afternoon tea stops in the tour cost, but we always make stops where there are a range of options available so you can choose what you want, and have flexibility to do things on your own if you wish.



**Day 4** Today is all about relaxation, chance to unwind Waiheke style, soak up the sun, enjoy a stroll along the beach or a swim in the calm waters of the bay. Our stunning beach front location will lend itself to the mood, and we won't need to venture out too far today. If you fancy some retail therapy then join us for a few hours at "The Village", as the locals refer to Oneroa, where you can browse the shops and art galleries at your own pace. This evening enjoy the company of your tour mates, with a wonderful dinner at a top local restaurant.

**Day 5** Our final full day on Waiheke is a day all about exploration and with the help of a local guide, we will discover the delights of this island paradise. Awash with white sand beaches and calm bays, there are scenic wonders around every corner. We will visit 2 of the islands best known wineries, where you can try some of their award-winning wines. A highlight for many is the scenic drive out to the Man-O-War winery located on the remote eastern side of the island. Enjoy tasting a range of locally produced wines as you watch the boats out in the bay from the winery set in a glorious beachfront location.



The islands micro-climate is perfectly suited to not only growing grapes but also many other artisan products. We will learn about (and sample) some of the islands produce, seasonal favourites such as olive oil, avocados, craft beer and more. The relaxed island vibe and mostly boutique producers lends itself to producing high quality products – and we will take our time today to soak in all the island has to offer. Dinner tonight is at a well regarded local restaurant, where we can recount all the wonderful memories we have made over the past few days.

**Day 6** Today we are homeward bound, departing Waiheke Island after breakfast and maybe that last stroll along the golden sand beach. We take the ferry back across the Hauraki Gulf to Half Moon Bay and begin our journey south. We will have you dropped at your door in the afternoon, having had a wonderful and relaxing trip.



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